
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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Ambient Air Quality Monitoring

Background

The Air Quality Bureau of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for ambient air monitoring and enforcing federal air standards. Federal ambient air monitoring requirements are set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in rule, and include requirements for ambient air monitoring by states. Beginning in 2007, the General Assembly has provided an annual appropriation from the Environment First Fund (EFF) to the DNR to support ambient air quality monitoring. This appropriation provides funding to support the activities of the DNR Ambient Air Monitoring Group, which coordinates, organizes, and plans air monitoring activities within the State of Iowa. These funds are in addition to federal funds and Title V fees, which comprise the majority of the Air Quality Bureau's budget.

Activities

Appropriated funds finance the administration of ambient air monitoring activities and an annual contract with the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL) at the University of Iowa to conduct air monitoring. The contract cost has ranged from \$2.0 to \$2.2 million since FY 2010, and the EFF appropriation funds a portion of the cost. The SHL collects air monitoring data, provides quality assurance results, and reports data to the public. The SHL also conducts the following activities:

- Operates and maintains most ambient air monitoring sites.
- Provides analytical and technical support.
- Determines the ionic composition of particulate samples.
- Analyzes samples for toxic compounds.
- Analyzes asbestos samples.
- Audits ambient air monitoring activities of SHL and local monitoring programs.

Funding History

Beginning in FY 2008, the EFF appropriation was \$325,000. The current appropriation is \$425,000 and has been at that level for the past five years.

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code section [455B.131](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [567—28](#)

Budget Unit Number

5420HC20295

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More Information

DNR Ambient Air Monitoring Group:

www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryAir/MonitoringAmbientAir.aspx

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